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NEWS RELEASE

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS EFFORT YIELDS A 77-MONTH SENTENCE FOR FIREARMS VIOLATION

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WILLIAM SOUNDARA, 27, of Fresno, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to 77 months imprisonment. SOUNDARA pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm by Judge Wanger on December 3, 2007.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Fresno Police Department as part of the Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative aimed at reducing gun violence by joint investigations of firearms offenses.

The charge arose after the defendant sold a firearm with an obliterated serial number to an undercover officer. The defendant had three prior felony convictions for crimes punishable by more than a year imprisonment: receiving stolen property, vandalism, and possession for sale of marijuana.

United States Attorney Scott praised the work of the agents and officers involved in this case stating, "Project Safe Neighborhoods is dedicated to keeping our communities safe from illegal firearms. Federal and local agents, in a quintessential example of cooperation, have worked together to take another armed criminal off our streets."

"This sentence today of a violent criminal once again shows that Project Safe Neighborhoods is doing just that—taking criminals and guns off our streets and making our neighborhoods safer," said Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer. "Our citizens can rest easier tonight knowing this violent criminal will

spend a long time in a federal prison.”

District Attorney Elizabeth A. Egan stated, “This conviction resulted from a remarkable collaboration between local and federal law enforcement agencies helping ensure that our community is kept safe and free from the terror of gun violence.”

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